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# JRNL 400.01: Ethics and Trends in News Media

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## **JRNL 400-Ethics and Trends in News Media**

**Autumn 2013-3 Credits-Traditional Grading Only**

**[www.ethicsandtrends.blogspot.org](http://www.ethicsandtrends.blogspot.org)**

**Scope-**This course will concentrate on current industry practices and ethical issues in electronic and print media. Students will write an in-depth research paper on an approved topic in journalism/media. Students will also be expected to write a short paper and present on an ethics issue. Two students will present each assigned day and lead a class discussion. We'll have a number of guest speakers in to talk about the current state of the industry. You are expected to follow current events in the news and the media and blog on given topics.

**Learning Outcomes:** The successful student in JRNL will demonstrate the following skills upon completion of the course:

- Ability to conduct in-depth research on a topic of importance in the media
- Ability to identify meaningful sources (text and in-person) for inclusion in research report
- Ability to correctly cite sources in research paper style
- Ability to write a scholarly paper
- Ability to make a class presentation that demonstrates expert knowledge in at least one area of media ethics
- Knowledge of ethical practices in the media and demonstrated ability to engage in ethical decision-making
- Knowledge of current trends and issues in the media
- Ability to engage with guests brought to class by asking questions demonstrating a knowledge of the guest's area of expertise
- Successful production of resume, portfolio and cover letter
- Demonstration of job-seeking skills
- Participation in blog dialogue by adding information and opinion to the discussion

**General Education/Journalism Credits:** This course is required for your BA degree in journalism and radio-television. It does not fulfill any general education requirements.

**Frequency of Offering:** This course is offered fall semester and spring semesters. It is designed to be taken in the student's final year in residence.

**Class Meets:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:40-11 in DAH 316. Any changes to class meeting times or locations will be announced in class.

**Instructor:** Denise Dowling, Interim Dean, School of Journalism. **Office:** Don Anderson Hall Room 425

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Office Phone:** 406-243-4143

**Email:** denise.dowling@umontana.edu

**Required Textbooks:** There is no required textbook for this class. However, I do expect you will do a significant amount of reading as you research your papers and class topics.

**E-mail:** Each student must have a working e-mail address that YOU CHECK OFTEN.

**Attendance:** You will be allowed two unexcused absence without consequence. Illness and university business absences will be excused IF you provide written evidence of your illness/travel. Please note that work for other journalism courses is NOT considered an excused absence.

If you have more than two unexcused absences, your final grade will drop one letter grade. If you miss five or more classes, you will fail the course. Please arrive on time as we will often have guests and late arrivals are distracting. If you are late three times, it will be considered an absence.

#### **Academic Honesty**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

#### **Same Work for Multiple Classes**

You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously or will be concurrently submitted for another class unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an "F" for the assignment and could result in an "F" for the course.

#### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at [www.umt.edu/dss/](http://www.umt.edu/dss/).

# Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as using other people's words, ideas, data or materials and presenting them as your own. When in doubt, ASK! Be sure to include citations when using other people's writing, because plagiarism is a serious offense in any discipline, but especially in journalism. It's a firing offense in the professional world. In the Department of Radio-Television, students face a range of penalties for plagiarism.

- a grade of "F" on the assignment
- a request that the student drop the class
- withdrawal of the student from the class, initiated by the professor
- an "F" in the course
- expulsion from the Radio-Television department and the School of Journalism
- denial of the student's degree
- expulsion, suspension or probation from the university.

**If you need more information or have questions about exactly what constitutes plagiarism, ask me!!** PLAGIARISM and all forms of cheating are treated with harsh discipline in the journalism school and by the university. *Don't do it.*

## Grading:

Paper 1-Ethics Paper/Presentation/Blog	25 points
Paper 2-First Draft Research Paper	15 points
Paper 3-Final Paper	40 points
Resume/Portfolio/Interview	10 points
Class Participation	10 points
TOTAL	100 POINTS

A	100-93%
A-	92-90%
B+	89-88%
B	87-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-78%
C	77-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-68%
D	67-63%

JRNL 400 (CRN 70897)  
Ethics and Trends in News Media  
Autumn 2013

Mondays/Wednesdays 9:40-11 DAH 316

**\*\*Due to the availability of guests, this schedule may change several times over the course of the semester. \*\***

<b>Monday, August 26</b> Welcome & Class Overview  Assignment: Research <b>and submit by email</b> 2 choices for ethics presentation.	<b>Wednesday, August 28</b> Topic: Ethical Decision Making Example: Make the Call/Offensive Language Example: Roughed Up/Reporter Involvement in a Story  <b>Due: Ethics Topic Ideas</b>
<b>September 2-Labor Day No Class</b>	<b>Sept. 4</b> Graduation Papers Writing a Research Paper Pew Study-Trends in Journalism  <b>Draw: Presentation Dates</b> <b>Assignment: Research ideas for senior paper</b>
<b>Sept. 9</b> Topic: Writers Roundtable Guests: Tamara Jones, Gwen Florio, Alex Sakaraissen  <b>Due: Research Paper Idea(s)/Source List</b>	<b>Sept. 11</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Kate Siberell-Reporting on Juveniles (Rory Guilfoey)-Homerism in Sports Reporting</b>
<b>Sept. 16</b> Topic: Reporting Science News Guests: Matthew Frank, Hank Green	<b>Sept. 18</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Stacy Thacker-Covering Racially Diverse Communities</b> <b>Zeno Wicks-Unnamed sources/protecting sources</b>
<b>Sept. 23-JAC</b> Topic: Entrepreneurial Journalism	<b>Sept. 25</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Hunter D'Antuono-Privacy vs. right to</b>

Guests: Michael FitzPatrick, Jeremy Sauter	know Cameron Jones-NPR Investigation
<b>Sept. 30-</b> Topic: Photographers Guests:	<b>October 2</b> Student Presentations: Mason Shoultz-Reporting Gun Ownership Christopher Allen-Plagiarism
<b>Oct. 7-Homecoming</b> Topic: Advocacy, Sales and Journalism Guests: Marlee Miller, Nancy DePastino, Jim Ascendio	<b>Oct. 9</b> Student Presentations: Jordan Niedermeier-Fairness in political reporting Clancy Crismore-Observer or Involved?
<b>Oct. 14</b> Topic: Covering Diverse Communities Guests: Jason Begay, Mark Boatman, Caitlin Copple	<b>Oct. 16</b> Student Presentations: Rachel Leathe-Editorial vs. Sales Matt Hudson –Covering Suicide/Hostage/Terror
<b>Oct. 21</b> Topic: Guests:	<b>Oct. 23</b> Student Presentations: Brianna Loper-Graphic Images Corin Cates-Carnet-Staging/Reenactments  <b>Due: First Draft Research Paper</b>
<b>Oct. 28</b> Topic: Guests:	<b>Oct. 30</b> Student Presentations: Keith McGlothlin-Social Media Ethics Sophie Danison-Online Comments
<b>Nov. 4</b> <b>The Job Hunt</b> Resumes, portfolios, interviewing	<b>Nov. 6</b> Student Presentations: Karl Schneider-News & Activism Alexander Deedy-Prior Review/Students and Schools

	<b>First Draft Papers Returned</b>
<b>Nov. 11</b> No Class Veteran's Day	<b>Nov. 13</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Kelsey Wardwell-Sexual Orientation</b> <b>Austin Green-911 Calls/Mug Shots or</b> <b>Ethical Promotion</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Kurt Penman-Covering Your Own</b> <b>Cole Havens-Athletes as Journalists</b>	<b>Nov. 20</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Melisa Penman-Ethical Editing</b> <b>Jakob LeMaistre-Covering Vulnerable</b> <b>People</b>
<b>Nov. 25</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b> <b>Seaborn Larson-Law Enforcement</b> <b>Allison Molin-National Security</b>	<b>Nov. 27</b> <b>(No Class-Thanksgiving)</b>  <b>Due: Final Papers</b>
<b>Dec. 2</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b>	<b>Dec. 4</b> <b>Student Presentations:</b>  <b>Due: Resume, cover letter, e-</b> <b>portfolio due.</b>

**Finals Week-Interviews with media professionals.**